reported that a fraud was detected in the National Clearing Centre (NCC) of RBI at Bombay on 30th July, 1994. 48 cheques for a total amount of Rs. 13.24 lakhs are suspected to have been pilfered from the lots of cheques presented by 15 Member banks including one Sub-Member bank. Three Machine Operators in the NCC are suspected to be behind the fraud. An FIR has been lodged with the CBI on 1st August, 1994 and three Machine Operators have been placed under suspension and departmental proceedings have been initiated against them. The amount involved in the fraud has been placed at Rs. 13.24 lakhs and not Rs. 200 Crs. as reported in the 3rd September, 1994 issue of the Times of India.

The CBI has reported that the case is still under investigation and keeping in view the complicated nature of transactions, no fixed date can be given for completion of investigation. The CBI/RBI have reported that this is the first case of this nature detected in NCC of RBI.

(f) The Bank has alerted all its branches managing the clearing houses about the modus-operandi followed in the fraud to take necessary steps to prevent occurrence of such frauds. The National Clearing Centres of the RBI have been advised to impress upon the member banks in their respective jurisdiction to follow the prescribed procedures and checks.

Comprehensive Agricultural Development Scheme

2063. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Gujarat have sent any proposal for the implementation of the Comprehensive Agricultural Development Scheme in the State ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

राष्ट्रीय परीक्षण केन्द्र

2064. **श्री अजीत जोगी** : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार उत्पादों की गुणवत्ता में सुधार लाने के लिए कुछ और स्थानों पर राष्ट्रीय परीक्षण केन्द्र स्थापित करने का विचार रखती है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका राज्यवार ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) वर्तमान राष्ट्रीय परीक्षण केन्द्रों के आधुनिकीकरण के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम० वी० चंद्रशेखर मूर्ति) : (क) और (ख) सिविल इंजीनियरिंग और रासायनिक क्षेत्रों में परीक्षण के लिए सुविधाओं सहित फरवरी-माह, 1994 में जयपुर में राष्ट्रीय परीक्षण गृह (एन० टी० एच०) का एक केन्द्र खोला गया है । राष्ट्रीय परीक्षण गृह के पास गुवाहाटी, हैदराबाद, कोचीन, अहमदाबाद, बंगलौर, गुड़गांव और रांची में और अधिक केन्द्र स्थापित करने की लम्बी योजना है । गुवाहाटी में एक क्षेत्रीय प्रयोगशाला खोलने के लिए व्यवहारिक अध्ययन पूरा कर लिया गया है । राष्ट्रीय परीक्षण गृह में अन्य विचारार्थ केन्द्रों के लिए व्यवहारिक अध्ययन प्रगति पर है ।

(ग) (i) राष्ट्रीय परीक्षण गृह के पूर्वी क्षत्र, कलकत्ता में तकनीकी और प्रशासकीय गतिविधियों, दोनों में कम्प्यूटरी करण पहले ही शुरु किया जा चुका है और अन्य विद्यमान परीक्षण गृहों में इसे शुरु किया जा रहा है ।

(ii) विद्यमान परीक्षण गृहों के लिए आधुनिक कार्यालयी उपस्कर सुविधाएं प्रदान की गई हैं ।

(iii) विद्यमान परीक्षण गृहों के पुराने तथा खराब उपस्करों क स्थान पर आधुनिक तथा नवीनतम उपस्करों को स्थापित किया जा रहा हैं ।

(iv) प्रदूषण नियंत्रण, असंशोधित, धातुकर्मीय सेवाओं, ध्वनिक परीक्षणों आदि के क्षेत्रों में नई सुविधाएं प्रदान की जा रही हैं । हाल ही में राष्ट्रीय परीक्षण गृह, गाजियाबाद में उच्च वोल्टता परीक्षण सुविधाओं का उद्घाटन किया गया है ।

(v) अनुसंधान एवं विकास और प्रशिक्षण स्कंध स्थापित किए गए हैं ।

(vi) कलकत्ता में विद्यमान राष्ट्रीय परीक्षण गृह की सुविधाओं की एक अनैक्सी के रूप में साल्ट लेक, कलकत्ता में आधुनिक प्रयोगशाला काम्प्लैक्स स्थापित की जा रही है ।

Setting up of Agro Industry in Gujarat

2065. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agro-based industry has been set up by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development in the State of Gujarat so far ;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether Government propose to set up agro-based industry in the State in the near future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the funds earmarked for this purpose during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (e) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that no agro-based industry has been set up by it in Gujarat. NABARD provides refinance among others for financing small, tiny, cottage and village industries in rural areas. Refinance schemes of NABARD for non-farm sectors cover wide spectrum of manufacturing and service activities including agro-based and agro-industrial activities. It has allocated a refinance assistance of Rs. 169.25 crores under the schematic lending for various purposes including Rs. 33.40 crores for development of non-farm sectors during 1994-95 NABARD has reported that it has sanctioned a scheme for one agro-based unit in Gujarat involving bank loan and NABARD refinance of Rs. 253 lakhs and Rs. 266 lakhs respectively.

Loans to Farmers

2066. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total loan given to farmers in the country, category-wise, details thereof;

(b) what is the estimated loss suffered by farmers of country as a result of negative protection to them on account of restrictions on processing and marketing their produce in internal and external market;

(c) whether the farmers are crushed under the burden of loan as a result of this negative protection; and

(d) if so, whether the negative protection will be removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the total direct finance outstanding towards agriculture and allied activities as on the last Friday of June 1993 (latest available) of all Scheduled Commercial Banks in the country was Rs. 18,287.74 crores. The break-up of the total is as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

Short-Term Loan . . .	4,988.21
Term Loan	9,221.38
Allied activities . . .	4,078.15
TOTAL :	18,287.74

The purpose-wise break up of total term loans outstanding as on the last Friday of June, 1993 by all Scheduled Commercial Banks to farmers was as follows:

	Amount Outstanding (Rs. in crores)
(i) Minor Irrigation Schemes .	2,137.87
(ii) Reclamation and Land Development Schemes	267.20
(iii) Tractors and Agricultural implements & machinery	4,328.96
(iv) Plantations	622.12
(v) Other Term loans	1,865.23
TOTAL :	9,221.38

(b) to (d) No information is available on the quantum of loss suffered by farmers as a result of negative protection to them on account of restriction on processing and marketing of their produce in internal and external markets.

Imposition of tax on Agricultural Income

2067. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether Government are contemplating the introduction of legislation (the legislation on panchayats) that would make it compulsory for the States to pass legislations for imposing tax on agricultural income and would also ensure that such laws would not be struck down by the judiciary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): No, Sir.

Borrowing by ENRON

2068. SHRI MD. SALIM:

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it a fact that ENRON bidding for the Dabhol Power Project has been permitted by Government of India to raise dollar denominated loans from overseas markets at an exhorbitant rate of 13 per cent interest;

(b) whether the United States of America has a system of providing suppliers' credit at close to LIBOR (7 per cent of interest) through its Exim Bank, and if so, why India did not press for such an arrangement; and

(c) what is the quantum of undue benefits ENRON would get out of this borrowing at higher rates of interest, apart from a net 16 per cent return assured in investments through a counter sovereign guarantee by Government of India?